

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## I CAN DO ALL THINGS

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 One of the blessings of walking with the Lord is having the strength to face and overcome troublesome circumstances in life. The Lord does not always take away the obstacles of life, but provides us the way to be victorious over them. We face our foe; we battle; and we overcome. But it is through the help and strength of the Lord that we are victorious.

Paul writes, “I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). Paul was not glorying in personal self-sufficiency, but emphasizing that his self-sufficiency was through the strength the Lord provided him, therefore giving glory to the Lord. Paul could continue through the times of want, for the Lord was with him to strengthen him until his needs were met. Regardless of the circumstances of want or abundance, Paul learned how to be content in what ever state he was in.

Like Paul, the Christian today can face the terrors of want, and be sufficient to face it courageously, knowing that God will provide for his or her needs (Matthew 6:33). The Christian knows God will not forsake him

or her in times of their want (Hebrews 13:5). Strengthened within with knowledge of the Lord’s promises, the Christian can continue through the dark days of want.

The Christian can also build himself or herself up in their faith. Jude writes, “But ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (Jude 20-21). But the Christian cannot be built up on his or her own wisdom, or own subjective feelings. He or she is not self-sufficient as to what builds him or her up.

The source for building one up is found in the word revealed by God. Paul emphasizes this when he says, “I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you he inheritance among all them that are sanctified” (Acts 20:32). We can build, pray and look. We have the ability to do these things. But what makes us strong is that we build upon the promises revealed in God’s word, pray in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Spirit, and be

looking for the Lord to come again as He has promised in His word.

We can also face death without fear. Jesus died and arose from the dead to take away the uncertainty of what exists beyond the grave, thus creating fear. “...He also himself in like manner partook of the same; that through death he might bring to nought him that had the power of death, that is the devil; and might deliver all them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 2:14-15). The Christian is released from the bondage of fear, not through merely determining to be brave, but of what Jesus has done for us in overcoming death. Through His resurrection, we face death with a living hope, confident of our home in heaven after death (I Peter 1:3-5).

The Christian stands and faces whatever comes in life with confidence. He can do all things, build himself up and be hopeful in life and death. What appears as self-sufficiency, is really strength derived through the trust and help of the Lord who gives strength to overcome. Through Him, we can do all things!